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## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

NO. 15.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR  
HEADQUARTERS  
801 BOW BIST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.  
FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY      SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

### "THIRD DEGREE" METHODS

Senate committee Conducting an Investigation into the Reprehensible and Abhorrent Practice.

Washington, July 15.--President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, appeared before the Senate Committee before which has been referred the matter of investigating "third degree" methods. Mr. Gompers opened his testimony before the committee on the methods employed by the police of this country, which, he said, constituted a system that is not only unlawful, but brutal. "In the case of the Seylor brothers, arrested in connection with the death of a young woman in Atlantic City about two years ago, one of the brothers was sweated and doped to such an extent that he made statements, which, if true, ought to have resulted in his conviction, but when the trial came", Mr. Gompers added, "and the man was not under the influence of the 'third degree' system, he gave testimony which resulted in his acquittal. That case is in strong contrast with the case of Dr. Crippen, arrested by the British authorities. Just as soon as Crippen was taken into custody, the officers told the prisoner that any statement he might make would be used against him at the trial. He was warned that he had rights that could not be invaded by the police."

Coming to the case of the McNamaras, Mr. Gompers declared that they were taken away from their home state without a proper hearing, without an opportunity of consulting with counsel, despite the fact that such an opportunity was demanded by the suspect--just taken bodily, placed in an automobile that was cranked up and ready to start, one of the speediest machines in the city of Indianapolis--manacled, taken at breakneck speed to Terre Haute, held until train time and rushed to California, being placed on several different trains during the trip.

A colloquy ensued between the members of the Senate committee and Mr. Gompers, dealing with the various phases of the case. It was brought out also that Burns had telegraphed to the Governor of California that he had arrested and was holding J. J. McNamara, in order to get the requisition, when, as a matter of fact, McNamara was not arrested until a week after the telegram was sent. Mr. Gompers also intimated that there had been unlawful acts committed by post office inspectors in co-operation with Burns.

At Hot Springs, Ark., the painters secured increase from \$3.20 to \$3.60; carpenters from \$3.60 to \$4.00.

## THERE'LL BE NO APOLOGY

Intimation That An Apology Would Have the Effect of Dismissing Contempt Proceedings Will Not Be Accepted By Defendants.

Washington, July 15.--At the hearing before the Senate Committee appointed to consider the administration of the law by federal officials, "third degree", President Gompers made it plain that he and his colleagues would not accept the proffered suggestion of apologizing to Justice Wright of the District Supreme Court. As a matter of fact, after reviewing some of the important points in this case, he said: "Several phases of this case will furnish a subject of profitable inquiry by this committee. Whether or not impeachment proceedings can be brought against this judge is a question. He deserves it, I have no doubt. If we had the recall, he would have been recalled long ago." Senator Borah interjected, "I think impeachment is a better proceeding", while President Gompers replied: "I have no doubt something along that line will soon develop." It was brought out that the sentences that have been imposed on the three defendants, imprisonment for twelve, nine and six months, are without a parallel in the history of the country. As a last word Mr. Gompers said: "I am not ready to apologize for trying to help the poor devil who is working, giving the best that is in him and getting so little for it. I am not conscious of having done any wrong or of having violated any law."

## DUNCAN LEAVES

New York, July 15.--James Duncan, delegate to the International Secretariat at Budapest, sailed Wednesday on the Garmania, his first stop being Liverpool, Eng.

## THE SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Washington, July 15.--From information gathered from widely separated points, it appears that the seamen have been generally successful in securing an increase in wages and bettered conditions. Owing to the fact that the strike was so widespread, it will be a considerable time before complete and authentic reports can be had and a general estimate made of the degree of success which has obtained on account of the contest.

## TO INVESTIGATE

Washington, July 15.--The Interstate Commerce Commission is incensed because the N. Y., N. H. & H. Railway has not reported the frightful wreck which occurred at Bridgeport, Conn. The Commission has sent a number of inspectors to the scene, for the purpose of making a complete and exhaustive investigation. Following this, the commission will prepare a bill and have it submitted to Congress for the purpose of having enacted more drastic regulations relative to railroad wrecks.

Electricians at Aurora, Ill., secured 50¢ per day increase.

Patternmakers of Chicago have secured an increase of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per hour and 44 hour week.

Painters of Wheaton, Ill., secured increase of 45¢ per hour, eight-hour day and Saturday half holiday.

## GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

Bill Introduced in House for the Establishment and Operation of a Government Owned and Controlled Line of Steamers.

Washington, July 15.—A bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Stephens, of California, providing for the establishment and operation of a government owned and controlled line of steamers along the Pacific coast and through the Panama Canal. Among the many interesting bills which have been introduced during the extra session of Congress, the one to empower the government to establish a line of steamers to make regular calls at the principal Pacific coast ports, including Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego is the most unique. The bill provides that the Panama Railroad Company purchase, or have constructed, not less than six steamers suitable for transportation of passengers and freight, along the Pacific coast. It also provides that as soon as the Panama Canal is completed, the service will be further extended to the Atlantic coast ports. The bill carries with it the sum of \$6,000,000 for the purpose of inaugurating the line of steamers. This measure will be watched with considerable interest.

## RURAL CARRIERS

Washington, July 15.—It has been announced by the Post Office Department that the 40,000 rural free delivery carriers in the United States are to receive an increase of \$100 per year over their present salary of \$900, for all carriers on standard routes, with proportionate increases on the shorter routes.

## POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Washington, July 15.—Preliminary reports from the Bureau of Census have been received, showing the constant cityward movement of the white and negro population of the nine southern cotton states, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. It shows that of the white people of these states, 18.9 per cent lived in urban areas in 1910, 14 per cent in 1900 and 11.6 per cent in 1890. Of the total negro population of the same states, the percentage living in urban areas was 17.7 per cent in 1910, 14.7 per cent in 1900 and 11.8 per cent in 1890.

## MAIL SERVICE CRITICISM

Brooklyn, July 15.—Much dissatisfaction has been caused among the employees of the Post Office Department in Brooklyn, relative to the reduction of mail deliveries from five to three. Much criticism has been indulged in and Dr. O. P. Granfield, First Assistant Postmaster General, in the usual autocratic manner said: "Any employe who sees fit to criticise the action of the Department or his superiors makes himself open to instant dismissal."

## GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION

Walla Walla, Wash., July 15.—This city has adopted the commission plan of city government by a vote of two to one.

Carpenters at Greenwich, Conn., secured an advance of 25¢ per day.

## PRISON MADE GOODS

The Manufacture of Brush and Wire Goods Employs Almost Exclusively Convicts in The Various Penitentiaries.

New York, July 15.--The Brownell Brush and Wire Goods Company, one of the largest convict working corporations in the country, controls the market for tampico and bristles in the United States, and is considered to be the richest concern in its line in the entire country. It has contracts for convicts at the following institutions: The penitentiary at Baltimore, Md., State Prison at Trenton, N. J., the reformatory at Mansfield, O. and the workhouses at Cincinnati, Columbus, Zanesville and Dayton, O. The average price it pays for its convict labor is about 35¢ per day, together with no expense for factory buildings, heat, light water or power. This company has manufactured with convict labor since the early fifties, over half a century. Col. Melish, the president, and granted to be the controlling stockholder, is one of the traction and financial magnates of Cincinnati and a leader in its most exclusive social circles. About a year ago he delivered an address of welcome on behalf of the city to the biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

## IRWIN STRIKE ENDED

Greensburg, Pa., July 15.--The strike of the coal miners in the Irwin-Greensburg district, in progress for the past sixteen months, has been officially declared off. This is the conclusion of one of the most bitterly fought industrial battles in the history of labor. The men have made great sacrifices and shown extreme loyalty to a principle. It is unfortunate that a clean cut victory could not have come to the miners, but, without doubt, the conditions in the Irwin fields will be materially bettered as a result of the contest.

## IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Washington, July 15.--Pursuant to the resolution of inquiry into the office of Immigration Commissioner Williams, introduced in the House by Congressman Sulzer, a hearing has been held. Secretary Nagel of the Department of Commerce and Labor denounced as ill-founded, partisan, cruel and injurious the charges made against the administration of immigration affairs at Ellis Island. The investigation will be continued at a later date.

## RESULT OF ARBITRATION

Joplin, Mo., July 15.--As a result of a short strike of the street car men in this city, the questions involved relating to wages and hours were left to a board of arbitration and the men returned to work. This arbitration committee has just made its award. The street car men are to receive an advance of 3 and 4 cents per hour, with a three year agreement.

## SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT

Joplin, Mo., July 15.--A controversy which has been on between the Building Trades Council of this city and the E. I. Dupont Powder Company, has been satisfactorily settled. The adjustment provides for an agreement, with the union shop.

## ENGLAND'S POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Men Employed in the Post Office Department of Great Britain Have Perfect Freedom in Joining Trade Organizations.

Washington, July 15.--In a letter received from A. H. Gill, who was a fraternal delegate from the British Trades Union Congress to the American Federation of Labor convention in Toronto, Canada, he makes mention of the organization in his country of the employees in the postal service. In commenting upon the attitude of the Post Office Department, with reference to the organization of men employed in the service, he writes as follows:

"With regard to the organization of postal clerks I can say that all classes of workers in connection with our postal department are organized in trade unions, and most of them are affiliated to the Trade Union Congress, paying exactly the same rate per member as those in other trades. They consist of separate organizations, such as the Postmen's Federation, Postal and Telegraph Clerks, Sorters, etc. The Government treats with their officials in reference to any disputes or arrangements or conditions of work. They are not prohibited from using their influence with members of Parliament to secure legislation or better administration of the postal service in their favor. They exercise their votes at elections, but are not allowed to take any public part in any election for a member of Parliament, but are allowed to sit in public bodies, boroughs or city councils, etc. The postal service is so thoroughly organized that they wield a great influence."

This is somewhat illuminating when we take into consideration that the Post Office Department in this country arbitrarily and automatically forbid the organization of postal employees, save that they join an organization dominated and controlled by the Department itself. That this class of employees have an equal right to join the trade unions attached to the American Federation of Labor will eventually be demonstrated.

## THE STEEL INQUIRY

Washington, July 15.--Representative Stanley, of Kentucky, who is chairman of the Steel Trust Inquiry Committee, is to soon call the committee together again to continue its hearings. Some gratuitous criticism has been offered that the committee did not intend to take up the labor end of the subject. It is stated authoritatively that the subject of labor conditions in the steel works will be taken up and a thorough investigation made.

## STRIKE VOTE BEING TAKEN

Richmond, Va., July 15.--Negotiations between the officials of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway and the representatives of the various organizations employed in the shops on the system, looking toward an increase in pay, have been broken off. The company practically refused to make any advances. As a result a strike vote is being taken and it is asserted that one of the biggest shops of the company has voted to strike, there being only one dissenting vote. The entire vote will be at hand within a few days.

City council of Barre, Vt., granted street and water department employes 48-hour week, reducing hours from 54, without reduction in wages.

## WATERFRONT WORKERS

over 160,000 Greater New York Wage Earners Form a Compact Federation for Defensive Purposes.

New York, July 15.--Delegates from the Seamen's, Longshoremen's, Harbor Boatmen's, Marine Cooks', Stewards', Waiters', Produce Shipping Teamsters' and Dock Builders' Unions have completed the organization of the Greater New York Waterfront Federation, comprising a membership approximating 160,000. The conditions in the various crafts mentioned together with a desire for complete unity among the unions, is the motive which actuated the formation of this large organization.

## JURYMEN THREATEN STRIKE

Washington, July 15.--The jury before whom the alleged Camorristi at Viterbo, Italy, are being tried for the murder of Genaro Cucolo and his wife, threatened recently to go on strike, and it was noon before the members of the jury could be induced to take their seats and permit the trial to proceed. It seems that a bill has been pending before the Chamber of Deputies providing special pay for the jurors serving in this case, but the extra allowance not covering the entire period of the trial, the trial having begun on March 11, the jurors demanded that the extra pay date from the opening of the proceedings, and in order to give force to their demand they began obstructive tactics by absenting themselves from the courtroom and threatening to remain away altogether, unless their demands were granted.

## PEOPLE TURNING CITYWARD

Washington, July 15.--There is a steady trend of people deserting the country and the farm for the turmoil and delights of the cities and towns, according to a report just issued by the Census Bureau. During the past ten years the percentage of people living in cities or other incorporated places of more than 2,500 inhabitants, increased from 40.5 percent to 46.3 percent of the entire population. Twenty years ago 36.1 percent of the total population lived in incorporated towns and cities.

## MAY IMMIGRATION

Washington, July 15.--The stream of immigrants landing on our shores continues unabated. During the month of May, 1911, 95,361 immigrants were admitted at American ports. Southern Italy continues to maintain its record of having sent the largest number, the month just referred to showing 19,352 Southern Italians being admitted. Classified according to nationality the Polish come next with 8,977, while following close behind this is the Germans with 7,710, the Irish 7,198, English 5,947, Hebrews 5,780, Scandinavians 5,455, the balance being distributed between twenty-nine other distinct nationalities.

Brewery Workers of Lancaster, Pa., won strike for \$1 per week increase, and engineers got \$2 per week increase.

Brewery Workers of Providence, R. I., increased wages \$2 per week.



## INDUSTRY OF SWITZERLAND

This Small Country Presents Phases of the Industrial Situation That Are Unlike All Other Countries.

Washington, July 15.—A singular feature of the industrial situation of Switzerland, and one which enters seriously into the economic condition of the Confederation, is what is known as the "house industry", or the production of various articles of manufacture in the homes of the workmen. Of chief importance to this particular branch of industry is due the fact that it involves the relation of cheap hand labor to mechanical production. The greater portion of the work is done by the country people and residents of villages, who are engaged in farm work or other occupations during the Spring, Summer and Autumn, but who spend the winter months in the production of various articles, the material for which is furnished by the manufacturers, who pay for the finished product at a stipulated piece price. This is stated to be the secret of success in certain of the Swiss industries, for the obvious reason that the labor question is practically eliminated and enables exporters to undersell successfully in markets where organized labor has established a higher standard of wages. While it can be said that applied mechanics is gradually encroaching on the house industry, the latest statistics will show that 130,000 people in Switzerland are engaged in the primitive method of manufacturing. Of the total number engaged in industrial pursuits 24 per cent belong to the house industry.

### A WARNING

Portland, Ore., July 15.—Through the influence of the local union busting associations advertisements are being distributed throughout the country, stating that labor here is scarce. As a matter of fact, there are many idle men in Portland and it is inadvisable for any tradesman or laborer looking for work to come to this city with the expectation of getting it. The advertisements are sent out for the purpose of flooding the city with labor, hence men in moving about the country should be extremely careful about accepting the statements with reference to employment, unless they come from an authoritative source.

### CONVICT LABOR

Contracts for Making of Garments in the Jeffersonville, Ind., Penitentiary Have Expired and Renewal Has Been Refused.

Jeffersonville, Ind., July 15.—The contracts for the making of garments in the Jeffersonville penitentiary expired on July 1, and the officers of the state in control of the penal institutions have refused to allow the contract to be renewed. Hereafter, this penitentiary will not permit garment making in the institution; however, it is rumored that these convicts are to be employed in a foundry, taking the place of iron molders. It is understood that the Iron Molders International Union proposes to make a vigorous effort to circumvent any action of this kind.

### LABOR MEN APPOINTED

Portland, Ore., July 15.—As a result of organized labor's effort in this city to defeat a conspicuous enemy and elect Mayor Rushlight, five representative union men have been appointed to various positions in the city. From reports union labor in the city is well pleased with the appointment of the new mayor.

## DEFEAT CONVENTION

Chicago, July 15.—The vote on the referendum proposition in the International Cigar Makers' Union for a convention has been tabulated. The proposal to hold a convention has been defeated. This organization has not held a convention for fifteen years, its business having been transacted wholly by the initiative and referendum. The cigar makers throughout the country, by this vote, and their ~~previous votes on this~~ same question, show that the great majority of members are well satisfied with the present method of legislation.

## MAHON'S YEAR BOOK

Detroit, July 15.—W. D. Mahon, President of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, compiles in his latest year book many interesting facts. It shows that \$60,612.42 was paid out during the year 1910 for sick, disability and death benefits. The number of agreements with traction companies in force in 1910 was 151, as compared with 123 the year previous. Reports from 159 divisions show that nine employees were killed on running boards of cars, the number injured being seventy-six. These same 159 divisions report forty-seven members killed.

## GET INCREASED WAGES

Philadelphia, July 15.—The Boiler Makers and Helpers employed in the Water Bureau of the Department of Public Works have secured an increase in wages. The increase amounts to \$4.00 per week to both the boiler makers and the helpers, besides bettered conditions in other respects.

## INJUNCTION FAILS

Jersey City, N. J., July 15.—In August, 1909, as a result of the inauguration of a strike for better conditions at the Hall Lace Company, an injunction was issued by one of the local courts for the usual purpose. The Amalgamated Lace Operatives, the union involved, contested these proceedings, and as a final result, the injunction order has been vacated and dismissed, leaving the organization a clean-cut victory.

## SPANISH INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Washington, July 15.—From the Consular reports from Spain comes the information that the laws now in force for the prevention of industrial accidents have had a very marked effect on the reduction of casualties throughout the country. While the number of accidents have doubled in number from 1904 to 1909 inclusive, yet the deaths resulting therefrom have decreased from 236 in 1904 to 210 in 1909.

## GET WAGE ADVANCE

Farnworth, Eng., July 15.—The loom overlookers who have been agitating for an advance in wages, assisted by the general secretary of the National Society of Overlookers, have been successful. An increase has just been secured in the ratings of 6 cents and the employees have been allowed what is termed a fall-back wage of 34 shillings.



## "ANDY" FURUSETH

Leading Magazine Publishes an Interesting Story of the Important Work Being Carried on By the Well-Known Seamen.

Washington, July 15.--In the July number of Everybody's Magazine, is to be found an entertaining and interesting article written by John L. Mathews, on the character and work of Andrew Furuseth, President of the International Seamen's Union. It depicts his life and work in a manner which is in true accord with the facts. "Andy" is known by every active labor man in the entire country, not only for his activity on behalf of the Seamen, but also for his complete grasp of the philosophy of the general labor movement. His persistent and consistent fight to better the conditions of the men who are a very near approach to involuntary serfs, is one that can with profit be emulated by everyone seeking to alleviate the sufferings of humanity in general.

## IS PUBLIC PRESS FAIR?

Winnipeg, Man., July 15.--The master plumbers of Vancouver have been advertising in the local papers for non-union plumbers. The business agent of the plumbers' union was instructed to also insert advertisements in the local papers, giving notice of the present lockout. The papers, although offered pre-payment for the ads, refused to accept them.

## TO TEACH UNIONISM

Chicago, July 15.--If the Women's Trade Union League carry out the policy which it has outlined, the principles of trade unionism are to be taught to the foreign element in Chicago with first lessons in English. "I am a member of a trade union", will appear in the new primer in place of the customary "this is a bear". "I am working in a union shop and receive \$10 a week", to take the place of "the fox is a cunning animal". It is also suggested that instead of having pictures of animals, trees, rivers, lakes and landscapes, that the primer to be used will be replete with pictures of shops, stores and factories filled with wage earners, who will in all cases display union buttons. Mrs. Raymond Robins champions the idea and says, "we can easily use such a primer in the foreign sections of the city where we have already established schools for working girls."

## VANCOUVER STRIKE

Vancouver, July 15.--The Building Trades strike has just concluded its fifth week, with all the unions involved standing firm and hopeful of complete success. The few men now at work for the contractors who are pushing the open shop fight are proving to be not only incompetent but extremely expensive. Indications are that the independent contractors who are not interested in the open shop fight, will become a great factor in a settlement of the controversy by signing agreements with the unions involved.

At Hardwick, Vt., the granite cutters secured an increase of from 10 to 56 cents per day, the lumpers and drillers an increase of 17 cents per day, and carpenters, painters and masons secured eight-hour day.

## NEW JOB FOR WOMEN

A Pump Company Making An Effort to Substitute Women for Men in Core Making in Iron Foundry.

Holyoke, Mass., July 15.—The Deane Steam Pump Company, a branch of the International Pump Company, has advertised for women to work in its core making department. In these advertisements much stress has been laid on the "neatness" of the place, and stating that the making of cores is like making bread, except that no flour is used. The company has endeavored to secure the services of newly arrived Polish women, to accept positions at low wages, only \$1.25 being offered for work now performed by men at \$2.75 per day. It is not known as yet what the union iron molders and core makers will do in the event of this substitution, but it is quite likely that with the introduction of women in this trade, the iron molders will vigorously protest and contest this innovation. So far as known, this is the first general effort ever made in this country to employ women in the iron trades.

## FEAR DEFEAT

Boston, July 15.—The Compensation Bill under consideration by the Massachusetts State Legislature is apparently in danger. It has been suggested that the entire proposition be sent to the Supreme Court for a decision as to its constitutionality, with the evident view to defer any legislation upon the subject until the next session of the legislature. The State Federation has notified all of its affiliates of the situation and asked their co-operation to the end that the bill may pass this session.

## "SHORTAGE" OF CHILDREN

London, July 15.—The textile mill owners of England are much concerned over the fact that it is becoming difficult to secure children as half-timers in the mills. In a general survey of the situation it is learned that for several months past great difficulty has been had in getting a sufficient number of children to work in the mills and many firms have advertised, either through the local labor exchanges or in other ways, in an effort to supply the demand. The population in many of the small manufacturing towns has in many cases remained practically stationary during the past ten years, and apprehensions are felt on the part of the manufacturers that it will be impossible to obtain a supply of juvenile labor to keep the mills fully at work. Labor men of England are encouraged over this state of affairs.

## WEAVERS ON STRIKE

Burnley, Eng., July 15.—The employes of the Baldwin's Victoria mill served notice on the management about a week ago that if certain working conditions were not remedied agreeable to a demand for redress, that a stoppage of work would follow. The employers refused and the operatives walked out, being backed up in their demands by the local Textile Federation.

Plasterers of Richmond, Va., secured eight-hour day without strike.